Indicator RECOMMENDED	Current Binge Drinking by High School Students
Justification	Binge drinking, as indicated by consumption of five drinks or more within a short time span, is strongly associated with injuries, motor vehicle crashes, violence, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, chronic liver disease, and a number of other chronic and acute conditions. Approximately 100,000 deaths per year are attributed to alcohol misuse. Purchase of alcohol by persons under the age of 21 is illegal. Young people who consume alcohol are more likely than adults to binge drink.
Definition	Percent of students in grades 9 through 12 reporting having five or more drinks in a row (i.e., within a couple hours) on at least one occasion within the past 30 days
Data Source	Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
Frequency	Biennial
Geographic Levels	National and State
Demographic Categories	Grade Level, Gender, and Race/Ethnicity
Strengths	This measure has been used consistently for many years, and by many different surveillance systems, as an easily obtained indicator of an alcohol use behavior that is almost certain to cause impairment. YRBSS estimates are typically based on larger samples than the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, and can be further broken down by grade level, gender, and race/ethnicity. Some states also collect YRBSS data for individual communities or school districts, which can be compared with their state-level data.
Limitations	This measure does not capture the frequency of binge drinking or amount consumed on any one occasion. As of 2003, weighted representative samples were only available for 32 states. Not all states participate, and some participating states do not provide representative samples. YRBSS is a school-based survey, so students who have dropped out of school are not represented. It is also subject to bias due to self-report, non-coverage (refusal by selected schools to participate), and non-response (refusal/no answer). Estimates for subgroups may have relatively low precision (i.e., large confidence intervals).